GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5802
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
SUPPLY OF INJECTED MILK
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mostly the milk being supplied in Delhi is indeed a milk received through drug injected cattle to increase the volume of milk into cow or buffalo;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ban the use of drug and oxytocin and its sale in the markets all over the country;

(c) whether doctors of all India Institute of Medical Sciences and other hospitals have also warned of the widespread use of the hormonal drug and its ill effects; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): There is no official report of supply of milk in Delhi received through drug injected cattle. Oxytocin is a peptide hormone naturally produced in the hypothalamus of the brain responsible for normal delivery and let down of milk. However, synthetic oxytocin is used both in human as well as veterinary medicine in a number of ailments including complications related to let down of milk following parturition. Oxytocin is a Schedule H drug regulated under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.As it is a highly potent, valuable, indespensable life saving drug that is applied advantageously both in human as well as veterinary practice, use of injection oxytocin is not banned in the country. However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have restricted its use by making it a prescription drug, and to check its misuse, the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 have been amended for manufacture of oxytocin injection in single unit blister pack only.

(c)&(d): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have informed that according to Indian Council of Medical Research and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, there is no published (scientific) reports on the adverse effects of milk containing high amount of oxytocin since the hormone gets rapidly metabolized in the liver and kidney of the animal to undetectable levels. Since the half life of oxytocin varies from 3 to 12 minutes, continued presence of this drug in milk is unlikely. The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying have, however, advised the State Animal Husbandry Departments to educate the farmers about the appropriate use of oxytocin and for not using this product without the prescription of registered veterinary practitioners.